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About the monthly Water Level bulletin

June Precipitation Over the Great Lakes

As a percentage of the long-term June average:

Great Lakes Basin	96%
Lake Erie (including Lake St. Clair)	57%
Lake Superior	106%
Lakes Michigan-Huron	96%

LEVEL news

Volume 10, Number 7 **July 8, 2002**

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June Highlighted by Intense Localized Rainfall Events

From June 10th through the 16th the storm track and jet stream extended from near Lake-of-the-Woods through the upper Great Lakes system into the Ottawa Valley and eastern Lake Ontario systems. Several disturbances affected these regions during this seven-day period with intense, localized rainfalls that resulted in flash flooding in northwestern and eastern Ontario. Water levels on Lake-of-the-Woods increased close to one metre and Ottawa River flows increased more than twofold as a result of precipitation from these events. Roughly 70 percent of the monthly precipitation over the Lake Ontario basin fell during this period of time.

The daily outflows from Lake Ontario during June averaged about nine percent higher than the long-term June average. Since May 18th, the outflow has been more than the amount specified by the regulation plan except for the period June 15th to 21st, when the outflow was as specified by the regulation plan to help prevent flooding on Lake St. Louis due to high Ottawa River flows. The over-discharge will continue until all the water reserved on Lake Ontario due to previous deviations from the regulation plan is released from Lake Ontario. At the beginning of July the amount of this reserve was about 4 cm.

Lakes Superior and Michigan-Huron began July 16 and 27 cm below average, respectively. Lakes St. Clair and Erie began the month 6 and 3 cm below average, whereas Lake Ontario level was about 27 cm above average. Present levels on each of the Great Lakes, except Lake Superior, are 20 to 30 cm higher than those of one year ago. Lake Superior is at about the same level as it was last year. Based on daily water level trends observed during June, it is likely that lakes St. Clair, Erie and Ontario have attained their peak levels for this year. Further increases in the levels of lakes Superior and Michigan-Huron are expected during July.

Montréal Harbour's monthly mean water level was 6.99 m during June, 25 cm higher than its 1967-2001 period-of-record average level for the month and 143 cm higher than it was during June 2001.

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Lake Ontario 119%

Note: These figures are preliminary.

June Outflows From the Great Lakes

As a percentage of the long-term June average:

Lake Superior 97%

Lake Erie 99%

Lake Huron 89%

Lake Ontario 109%

Note: These figures are preliminary.

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Summary information for "LEVEL*news*"

For several years now, an electronic version of LEVELnews has been posted on the Internet around the 9th or 10th of each month. Starting this month, an Adobe Portable Document Format (or PDF) version of LEVELnews will also be available. When viewed or printed, the PDF version will have virtually the same look and feel as the one distributed by mail.

To view the PDF version, please click on the PDF-version link to the current issue on the LEVELnews web page.

In order to view and print the file you will need to have Adobe Acrobat Reader installed on your computer. If you don't have Acrobat Reader on your computer, it can be downloaded free of charge from Adobe. A link to download the reader is provided on the LEVELnews web page.

Once you've view and printed LEVELnews, be sure to go to the latest Monthly Water Level Bulletin.

More St. Lawrence River Water Level Information

Since this spring, the Canadian Hydrographic Service-Quebec Region, with the collaboration of Environment Canada, has added two new stations to the existing water level information network: Pointe-Claire (station #15330), for Lake St. Louis, and Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue (station #16005), for Lake of Two Mountains. These two stations add to the already existing 18 water level observation stations along the St. Lawrence River and also the 56 tidal prediction stations across Canada.

To get water level information from these stations, dial the toll-free number 1-877-775-0790. A new section covering tides, currents and water level information will soon be posted on the CHS web site.

U.S. Water Level and Meteorological Data

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), National Ocean Service (NOS), Center for Operational Oceanographic Products and Services (CO-OPS) has placed in operation a real-time water level information service for 2002. This service "Great Lakes Online" is a product that provides users with the latest information from NOAA's gauging network in the Great Lakes. Real-time water level (updated every six minutes) and meteorological data are provided to users via the Internet or an interactive telephone response system.

Internet users may select their water level station of interest by selecting the "State Maps" or "Stations List" option on the main menu. To access the information via phone, dial 1-301-713-9596 (a toll number) and follow the directions on the interactive telephone response system.

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